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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Peter J. Myers

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HAU VAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3618

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/29/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/748,804

Applicant(s)

MYERS ET AL.

Examiner

Hau V Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 23 and 51 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22, 24-31, 34, 36-38 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-4, 7-8, 12-14, 18-22, 28-31, 34, 36-38, 42 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blewitt et al. (1,448,783) in view of Sanchez (4,480,864).**

Blewitt et al. in figures 1-2, disclose a invalid support, which can be used a seat position or a standing position having a seat (14). The standing position can be considered a walk- behind walker, which the seat is removed from the convertible walker. Blewitt et al. fail to show a base.

Sanchez in figures 1-8, teaches a baby-walker, which can be a child entertaining apparatus comprising a base (28), a seat (25) and a wheel walker (10) to at least partially support the seat above the base. The wheel walker has a lower portion and a top portion and is being removable from the base. The top portion includes the seat

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(25) and the lower portion can be considered a wheeled walk-behind walker. The wheeled walker includes at least one wheel (16) in contact with the base when the wheeled walker at least partially supports the seat above the base. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the child walker of Blewitt et al. with the baby walker having base as taught by Sanchez in order to provide a wheel walk-behind walker, which can easily and effectively be converted from a normal fully mobile condition to a stationary condition.

Regarding claim 2, Sanchez discloses the seat, which is rotatable relative to the base.

Regarding claim 3, Sanchez discloses the seat comprising a fabric or plastic seat supported within a ring.

Regarding claim 4, Sanchez discloses the seat, which is adjustable to adjust a distance between the seat and the base.

Regarding claim 7, Sanchez discloses the wheel walker comprising a tray (21).

Regarding claim 8, Sanchez discloses the tray, which is at least partially supported by the wheeled walker.

Regarding claim 12, Sanchez discloses the wheeled walker, which is removed from the base. The tray can be disposed above the base to permit a child seated on the floor to play with the at least one toy.

Regarding claim 13, Sanchez discloses the tray, which is coupled to the base by an arm.

Regarding claim 14, Sanchez discloses the tray, which is pivotably coupled to the arm.

Regarding claims 18-19, Sanchez discloses the arm having an upper portion and a lower portion, at least one of the upper and lower portions being rotatable relative to another of the upper and lower portions. Wherein the upper and lower portions are rotatable about a longitudinal axis of the arm.

Regarding claim 21, Sanchez discloses the receptacles substantially prevent the wheeled walker from rolling on the wheels.

Regarding claim 22, Sanchez discloses springs or flexible strap (52) to permit bouncing movement between the seat and the base.

Regarding claim 28, Sanchez discloses the wheeled walker comprising at least one leg.

Regarding claim 29, Sanchez discloses the wheeled walker further comprising an upper frame coupled to the at least one leg.

Regarding claim 30, Sanchez discloses a handle (a top table peripheral can be used as a handle) located to be gripped by a standing child.

Regarding claim 31, Sanchez discloses the handle is movable from a stored position to a use position.

Regarding claim 38, Sanchez discloses the structure, which can be used the same method by securing the seat to the wheeled walker.

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4. Claims 34, 36-38, 42 and 44 are alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanchez (4,480,846) in view of Blewitt et al. (1,448,783).

Regarding claim 34, Sanchez discloses a child entertaining apparatus comprising base (28), a seat (25) pivotably coupled to the base and a support (13) positionable between the base and the seat to support the seat above the base. Sanchez fails to show a removable support, which is a walk-behind walker.

Blewitt et al. in figures 1-2, disclose a invalid support, which can be used a seat position or a standing position having a seat (14). The standing position can be considered a walk- behind walker, which the seat is removed from the convertible walker. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the walker of Snachez with the convertible walker that can be convert between a walker and a walk-behind walker as taught by Blewitt et al. in order to help the child developing the ability to walk.

Regarding claim 42, when the convertible walker is placed on the base of Sanchez. The method can be comprised a following steps using the convertible walker as a support to at last partially support a seat (14) above a base (11a) and removing the wheel walker from the seat and the base to use the wheel walker as an aid in teaching a child to walk.

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5. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blewitt et al. (1,448,783) in view of Sanchez (4,480,846) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Sudo (3,796,430).

The combination of Blewitt et al. and Sanchez disclose the seat, but fails to show a shortening mechanism.

Sudo in figures 1-2, teaches a baby walker comprising a seat (4) including a shortening mechanism. The shortening mechanism includes a buckle, a first belt having a first end fixed to the seat and a second end coupled to the buckle and a second belt having a first end fixed to the seat and a second end coupled to the buckle. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the seat of Blewitt et al. in view of Snachez with the baby walker having a seat including a shortening mechanism as taught by Sudo in order to adjust the height of the seat.

6. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blewitt et al. (1,448,783) in view of Sanchez (4,480,846) as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Perego (5,071,149)

The combination of Blewitt et al. and Sanchez disclose the tray, but fails to show the tray is removably secured to the wheel walker.

Perego in figure 2, teaches a go cart for children comprising a tray (15), which is removably secured to the cart. The tray comprises at least one toy coupled to the tray. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the wheel walker of Blewitt et al. in view Snachez with the go cart

for children having a removably tray, which includes at least one toy as taught by Perego in order to satisfy every play and cognitive requirement of the child.

7. Claims 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blewitt et al. (1,448,783) in view of Sanchez (4,480,846) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Meeker et al. (6,299,247)

The combination of Blewitt et al. and Sanchez disclose the base, but fails to show the base comprising a domed surface beneath the seat.

Meeker et al. in figure 1, teach a child exercise rocker comprising a base (54) having a domed surface. The base is rockable and has a lock out mechanism (86) to prevent rocking. The lock out mechanism includes a leg carrying a state message and the base define a window positioned to display the state of message when the lock out mechanism is in a predetermined state associated with the state message. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the base of Blewitt et al. in view Snachez with the child exercise rocker having a base with a domed surface as taught by Meeker et al. in order to provide a base that can be rocked in any directions.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claim 47 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claims 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.
10. Claims 23 and 51 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14, 18-31, 34, 36-38, 42, 44-45 and 47 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau V. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-6696. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on 571-272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hau V Phan
Primary Examiner
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12/20/06